

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 /021 W

-----049340 141029Z /14

P 140925Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8096

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DEPT PASS OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, SN, US

SUBJECT: OPIC INSURANCE --NEW GROUND RULES?

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM HOOKER CHEMICAL, SUBSIDIARY OF OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, CONCERNING RUMORED CHANGES IN OPIC INSURANCE COVERAGE ELIGIBILITY. COMPANY WANTS COVER FOR PROPOSED PLANT HERE BUT HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM HOME OFFICE THAT OPIC BOARD WILL CONSIDER AT NEXT MEETING PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE FROM INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY INVESTMENTS IN MIDDLE-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE. COMPANY HERE UNDERSTANDS IT MUST MEET JULY 25 DEADLINE IN ORDER FOR OPIC TO CONSIDER ITS APPLICATION.

2. HOOKER REP TOLD EMBOFF 7/14 HE HAD CALLED HEAD OF SINGAPORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB) TO DISCUSS PROBLEM. EDB HEAD RESPONDED STRONGLY, SAYING SUCH A MOVE BY OPIC WOULD VIOLATE TERMS OF US-GOS BILATERAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT, AND SAID HE WOULD BRING MATTER UP WITH EMBASSY.

YEO SENG TECK, EDB DIRECTOR, CALLED EMBASSY SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE CHANGE IN OPIC POLICY THAT WOULD EXCLUDE SINGAPORE FROM COVERAGE, STATING THAT IT WOULD BE "EXTREMELY SERIOUS" FOR SINGAPORE, SINCE IT WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT. YEO SAID HE

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BELIEVED THAT OPIC COVERAGE WAS INCLUDED IN US-GOS INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT. YEO ADDED THAT MEASURING THE STAGE OF SINGAPORE'S DEVELOPMENT BY PER CAPITA GNP IS MISLEADING BECAUSE SINGAPORE IS A CITY-STATE WITHOUT A LARGE RURAL POPULATION. HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBLE OPIC POLICY CHANGE AND NOTIFY HIM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REALIZE THAT THIS THIRD-HAND INFORMATION
MAY BE INACCURATE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON ANY SUCH CHANGE
IN OPIC GROUND RULES BEING CONSIDERED, AND ASSESSEMENT OF PO-
SSIBILITY OF CHANGE ACTUALLY BEING IMPLEMENTED. PLEASE ALSO ADVISE
ON APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO EDB.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSURANCE, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP02978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770250-0897
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770757/aaaabxhj.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c07d566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1860676
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIC INSURANCE --NEW GROUND RULES?
TAGS: EINV, SN, US, OPIC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c07d566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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